

MINIMUM COMUSEC STANDARDS  
A PHASED APPROACH

o Step 1: Setting of Initial Limiting Conditions (Completed November 1983)

- SCI information systems only
  - 13 critical SCI information systems, initially
- Security upgrades to existing operational SCI information systems
- Reducing or eliminating areas of greatest vulnerability
  - Inadequate access and authentication controls
  - Inadequate system accountability, e.g., auditing, transactional analysis, monitoring, etc.
  - Inadequate dissemination and security labeling controls and management
- Security upgrades achievable in the 1985-1986 timeframe by use of market available products/services, by introduction of in-house procedures, and controls or by additional personnel resources (implies approval of needed funding)

o Step 2: Identification of Minimum SAFEGUARDS

- The term "SAFEGUARDS" is used to specify a candidate set of COMPUSEC STANDARDS. In this sense, a "STANDARD" has an accepted formal meaning: a "SAFEGUARD," on the other hand is used as an informal designation of a definable security upgrade
- 41 SAFEGUARDS were derived in the limited context of Step 1, i.e., for achieving of needed security upgrades for the three areas of greatest vulnerability of the selected 13 critical SCI information systems.

(Completed October 1983)

- The 41 Minimum SAFEGUARDS initially identified by October 1983 will be reduced to those achievable in the 1985-1986 timeframe to meet one of the specified limiting conditions of Step 1. These 1985-1986 Minimum SAFEGUARDS will probably number about 20.

(To be completed March 1983)

o Step 3: Recommendation of Candidate List of 1985 Minimum COMPUSEC Standards

- The 1985 Candidate Minimum COMPUSEC Standards will be selected from the approximately 20 1985-1986 Minimum SAFEGUARDS and will be those aimed directly at alleviating the three most serious vulnerabilities identified in Step 1 and present in the 13 critical SCI information systems.
- The 1985 Candidate Minimum COMPUSEC Standards will be separated into:
  - 1) Mandatory COMPUSEC Standards
  - 2) Voluntary COMPUSEC Standards

Only those standards which can be implemented, i.e., to which resources have been allocated can be proscribed as mandatory. All other standards will be designated voluntary.

(To be completed July 1984)

o Step 4: Establishing a COMPUSEC Standards Compliance and Coordination Process

- This Step 4 proceeds in parallel with Steps 2, 3, 5 and 6. The first components of the process are needed to handle the promulgation of the candidate mandatory standards for comment by affected US Government and industry organizations (Step 5).

- DOD has a standards program formalized by regulation.

The IC has no such formalized standards program. Since SCI COMPUSEC Standards must be set by the DCI so as to adequately provide for protection of sources, methods and intelligence content, an IC or NFIB COMPUSEC compliance and coordination process is needed to interface with or augment the DOD Standards Program.

- o Step 5: Promulgation for Comment of Candidate 1985 Mandatory COMPUSEC Standards by the DCI/DDCI

- Candidate standards, both mandatory and voluntary, may be established by consensus or edict. Consensus is more common for US Government standards with the possible exception of National Security-related standards.
- General types of standards anticipated for COMPUSEC include:
  - 1) Documentation Standards
  - 2) Performance Standards
  - 3) Interface Standards
  - 4) Protocol Standards
  - 5) Data Standards
  - 6) Software Program Standards
  - 7) Equipment Standards

- Industry is particularly concerned with standards that lead to potential sole-source situations.
- Promulgation of candidate standards is always preceded by difficult decisions relative to issues resulting from considerations such as those just described.

(To be initiated September 1984)

o Step 6: Issuance of the First 1985 Mandatory and Voluntary COMPUSEC Standards by the DCI/DDCI

- This step assumes an in-place standards compliance and coordination process.

(To be initiated October 1984)

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DIAGRAMMED

